

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5124

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN REACTION TO TINDEMANS REPORT

1. THE ITALIAN POLITICAL CRISIS, ALLEGATIONS OF CIA FUNDING FOR ITALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES AND ITS OWN ESSENTIAL PRAGMATISM DROVE THE TINDEMANS REPORT TO THE INSIDE PAGES OF THE ITALIAN PRESS. COVERAGE, ESSENTIALLY FACTUAL, WAS SKIMPY AND MIGHT HAVE BEEN MINIMAL HAD TINDEMANS NOT SEEMED TO INTIMATE SECOND-CLASS CITIZENSHIP FOR ITALY.

2. DESPITE HIS CAREFUL PHRASEOLOGY, TINDEMANS' SUGGESTION THAT EC MEMBERS COULD PROCEED TO PORT AT DIFFERENT SPEEDS VEXED MANY WRITERS, JUST AS HAD BRANDT'S COMPARABLE EARLIER PROPOSAL. SOCIALIST AVANTI, FOR EXAMPLE, SAW THIS DIVISION AMONG THE POOR AND WELL-TO-DO AS THREATENING TO MOVE THE

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BRITISH FURTHER UNDER THE "AMERICAN UMBRELLA" AND, BY WEAKEN-

ING ITS TIES WITH "INDUSTRIAL EUROPE", FORCING ITALY INTO A POLITICALLY AND SOCIALLY DANGEROUS "MEDITERRANEANIZATION". HOWEVER, SUCH REACTIONS HAVE BEEN FAR FEWER AND LESS STRIDENT THAN IN THE BRANDT CASE, PERHAPS BECAUSE ITALIAN ATTENTION IS ALMOST TOTALLY FOCUSED ON THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL FUTURE.

3. LIMITED PRESS PLAY (COMMUNIST L'UNITA AND CENTER CONSERVATIVE IL GIORNO) OF UNFORTUNATE TINDEMANS PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS GAVE THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY A HELPFUL PUSH. TINDEMANS WAS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID "BERLINGUER (PCI CHIEF) HIMSELF TOLD ME HE FAVORS EUROPE ACQUIRING A GREATER IDENTITY (AND SUPPORTING)...GREATER DEMOCRATIZATION OF EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS. THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I PROPOSE IN MY REPORT." ADDING THAT BERLINGUER HAD ALSO SAID THAT HE WANTS TO RESPECT THE DEMOCRATIC RULES, TINDEMANS FELT CONSTRAINED TO CONCLUDE THAT "GIVEN THE ACTUAL STATE OF THINGS IN EUROPE, THE COMING TO POWER OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS WOULD NOT, AT FIRST SIGHT, CHANGE ANYTHING."

4. IN A CONVERSATION FOLLOWING SHORTLY ON PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, AMB. PLAJA, TOLD DCM THAT GOI HAD YET TO TAKE AN OFFICIAL STAND (DUE TO GOVERNMENT CRISIS). SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HOWEVER, HE SAID HE FOUND IT WORKMANLIKE, PRAGMATIC AND HAVING THE MERIT OF MANY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ITALY, AS THE MOST "EUROPEAN-MINDED" MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY, WOULD INSIST BE GRAPPLED WITH BY THE COMMUNITY. PLAJA ADDED GENTLY THAT ITALY COULD HARDLY BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT TINDEMANS TWO-SPEEDS-TO-PORT THESIS. VOLPE

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